

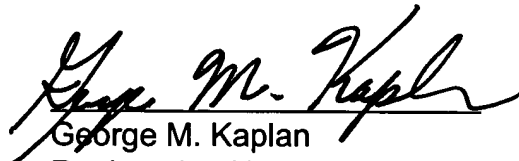
It is noted Claim 50 is regarded as generic to Figs. 2-4 in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. However, it is respectfully pointed out Claim 50 is directed to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2. More specifically, Claims 21-24, 30-34 and 38-43 are generic to Figs. 2-4, with Claims 27, 28, 44, 45 and 50 specifically directed to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2.

Another copy of Form PTO-1449 attached to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed August 20, 2001 is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that receipt of the Japanese patent abstract be acknowledged upon Form PTO-1449, together with receipt of DE 3820170 cited in the first Information Disclosure Statement (another copy of this Form PTO-1449 is also enclosed).

A Petition for an automatic one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with the requisite petition fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


George M. Kaplan
Registration No. 28,375
Attorney for Applicant(s)

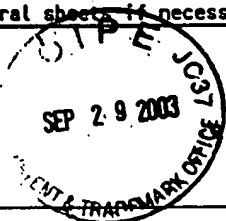
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)



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09/232,119

APPLICANT

Thilo Weitzel

FILING DATE

1/15/99

GROUP

Art Unit 23

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENT

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILE IF AP
<i>W</i>	5 0 5 9 0 2 7	10/91	Roesler, et al.	318	346	

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OCT 07 2003

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRA YES
0 2 9 7 5 5 6	01/89	European			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

<i>W</i>	Patent Abstracts of Japan No. 04055726, February 24, 1992 and JP 02165566

EXAMINER

K. Kuehn

DATE CONSIDERED

11/2/01

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance; not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.